SUNDAY 30TH MARCH + 4TH SUNDAY LENT +

MASSES THIS WEEKEND

29TH/30TH MARCH

6.00 PM PEOPLE OF THE PARISH
9.30 AM EILEEN AND GERRY BRADY **(A) RIP**
11.30 AM KATHY O' BRIEN AND
TED & PHYLLIS McGOLDRICK **(A) RIP**

FOR OUR PRAYERS

FOR THOSE WHO ARE SICK / IN NEED
Sharon Evans, Loreto Berry, Ida Houlden, Stella Murray, Andrew Hencel, Teresa Collins, Audrey Farrell.

THOSE IN OUR NURSING HOMES especially Dolores Walsh, Sarah Joyce, Katie Loftus, Hilda Minoli.

FOR OUR HOUSEBOUND PARISHIONERS ESPECIALLY
Peggy McMahon, Marie Hardy.

FOR THOSE WHOSE ANNIVERSARIES OCCUR AROUND THIS TIME :
Eileen Brady, Stephen Wilby.



RECENTLY DEPARTED: Tracy Ashby

THE CANDLE FOR THE SANCTUARY LAMP



has been donated this week
BY MARIA, PEDRO AND FAMILY
in Loving Memory of
WILLIAM JOHNS RIP





THE VIGIL LAMP AT OUR LADY

burns this coming week
for the intentions of

CHRISTINA ETUKA

Dear Parishioners,

'… your brother was dead and has come to life again; he was lost and has been found.'

On this Fourth Sunday of Lent the Church gives us Jesus' famous parable of the Prodigal Son to contemplate. As the context for this parable we are told: *'The tax collectors and sinners were all drawing near to listen to Jesus.'* Once these people drew near to him, Jesus spoke to them using the story of a young man who disrespects his father, takes his inheritance, squanders it on illicit living and ends up destitute with nothing. The parable expresses the initial bid for freedom in the life of this young son, but which is followed by his subsequent confusion, desperation, guilt and shame. As we ponder this parable, we can try to understand the effect that it would have had upon the tax collectors and sinners who were listening to Jesus. They were spiritually hungry, just as the prodigal son was. They may have had a past full of regret and have been unsatisfied in life and been looking for a way out just as this son of the loving father was. For these reasons, those tax collectors and sinners who drew near to Jesus could have been mesmerised by all that Jesus taught them and filled with hope that they, too, could share in the joy that was so generously bestowed upon this wayward son. As we prepare for the great feast of Easter, we are anticipating celebrating with renewed faith and devotion, the fact that Jesus became the *prodigal son* for all of us. He left his Father and came into the *far country* of the world and accepted death as a consequence of all our sins and then rose from the grave. Jesus did this so that we could hear the Father say to us: *you were dead and have come to life again; you were lost and have been found.* Let us reflect, today, upon the tax collectors and sinners drawing near to Jesus. Though they may have had a certain fear and caution, they would have also had hope. Let us try to understand what they must have thought and felt as they heard this story of the Father's abundant mercy. In this Jubilee Year of Hope, let us think about what it may have meant for these sinners that there was hope for them too. Let us see ourselves as one of those needy souls who drew near to Jesus so that we can be a cause of joy in the heart of our Father in heaven also.

God Bless you, ***Fr Martin***

CLOCKS CHANGING THIS WEEKEND– Clocks go forward an hour for British Summertime– don't be late for mass!

COMBONI MISSIONARIES APPEAL 2025—This weekend we welcome Fr John Downey, who will be concelebrating and preaching at all the masses. There will be retiring collections for the Comboni Missionaries after each mass.



MOTHERING SUNDAY—We pray for a special blessing on all Mothers this Sunday.

EASTER FLOWERS– There will be a collection next week for anyone who would like to contribute to Easter Flowers

YOUTH MASS- next Sunday 6th April 6.00pm for year 9 and above. Followed by a social in the hall to 8.30pm. Come along, bring a friend and spread the word.

DRAMATISATION OF THE PASSION - Tickets for "The Last Days of Jesus, " the dramatisation of The Passion on Thursday 10th and 11th April at 7.30 pm and Saturday 12th April at 3.00pm, will be available after all Masses this weekend or through Jackie Keating on **07932 051742**.

FOR MORE PARISH INFO OR TO SIGN UP FOR: E ALERTS, NEWSLETTER BY E MAIL, LIVE STREAMING OF SERVICES ,
VISIT THE PARISH WEBSITE HTTPS://PARISH.RCDOW.ORG.UK/EASTCOTE/

Mass Times
31st March—6th April

DAY	CHURCH OPEN	MASS TIMES	INTENTIONS / DETAILS / FEAST
MON 31ST-MARCH	9 AM TO 11 AM	**9.30 AM**	CHRISTINA ETUKA **INTS**
TUES 1ST APRIL	9 AM TO 11 AM	**9.30 AM**	MARY RANKIN **RIP**
WED 2ND APRIL	9 AM TO 11 AM	**9.30 AM**	DECEASED MEMBERS OF THE O'ROURKE FAMILY **RIP**
THURS 3RD APRIL	10 AM TO 11 AM	**NO MASS**	**ROSARY AND EXPOSITION**
FRIDAY 4TH APRIL	9 AM TO 11 AM	9.30 AM 	CATHERINE FOGARTY **(A) RIP** **FOLLOWED BY STATIONS OF THE CROSS**
SAT 5TH APRIL	9 AM TO 11 AM	**9.30 AM**	PRIVATE INTENTIONS **FOLLOWED BY EXPOSITION AND CONFESSIONS**
SUNDAY 30TH 6TH APRIL		**6.00 PM (SAT)** **9.30 AM** **11.30 AM**	BRIDGET GRAYDON **(L/D) RIP** PEOPLE OF THE PARISH MARY CONNOLLY AND JAMES & KATHLEEN MASKELL **RIP** **5TH SUNDAY LENT**

St Thomas More Catholic Church

32 Field End Road, Eastcote, HA5 2QT

PARISH PRIEST: Fr Martin Plunkett

PARISH OFFICE: Mon—Thurs 9.30 to 12 noon **Administrator:** Tessa Maude

NOTE OF THANKS TO FINANCE Special thanks to Marian, Chair of Finance, who spoke at our masses last weekend, keeping us informed about the Parish Finances and to all those who serve on the Finance Committee. As always, the response from parishioners, specifically with regard to updating the parish mass books, has been very generous and we will soon be able to order the next set of books. If you missed the talk and could sign up for Gift Aid , to increase what you currently give at no cost to you, there are details at the front of church on how this can be done.

GOOD FRIDAY 18TH APRIL 2025 There will be a **Stations of the Cross Service for children at 10am.** This will involve the children as much as possible and will make the way of the Cross understandable to them. We invite families to "adopt" a Station. If you do this, your children will be enabled to take an active part in the service with your support. Please sign the paper form in the porch by 13th April (Palm Sunday) and I will contact you during Holy week to give you more details. If you have any questions please email jinglese@btinternet.com

EVENING OF IRISH SONG Many thanks to all the people who came to the Folk Group's evening of Irish song. The audience was wonderful joining in the singing with great enthusiasm. £440.55 was collected for charity - £220.00 for Churches Together in Eastcote and £220.55 for Barnardo's in Eastcote - a magnificent total.

DATES FOR THE DIARY 

THE LIFE ASCENDING GROUP meeting on **Wednesday 2nd April** at 2.30pm in the Library and every fortnight thereafter. Their welcome extends to all Christians in their middle to later years. This involves half an hour of prayer and half an hour of discussion around the latest literature produced by the diocesan Agency for Evangelisation.

SVP The next meeting will be on Sunday **6th April** after 9.30 am mass. The annual pilgrimage to Walsingham organised by the SVP takes place this year on **SUNDAY 1ST JUNE.** If you are interested in going, please let the Parish Office know.

FOODBANK–We have received a thank you from Hillingdon Foodbank for our joint contributions with St Lawrence church that totalled 75.2 kilograms. Special thanks also to Anna who delivers them for us each month. The next collection will be on **7th April**.

REDISCOVER YOU MARRIAGE-The next programme commences with a weekend in Welwyn Garden City on **20th - 22nd June 2025** Call or text 07887 296983 or 07973 380443, email retrouvailleukinfo@gmail.com or visit www.retrouvaille.org.uk. No group therapy or group work.

LIVE STREAMING –For INFORMATION -All the parish masses and services are live streamed. Those on the sanctuary, sanctuary steps during mass or seated at the front of the church, may appear on the live feed on line.